NOTEWORTHY

Spring 2026
News from the University of Toronto Libraries

IN THIS ISSUE

4 Stepping back and looking forward: A conversation with Larry P. Alford

8 An approach both curious and critical: A closer look at UTL's AI Literacy Framework

10 Enriching film scholarship, one reel at a time: Landmark UTL donation honours the legacy of IMAX co-founder Graeme Ferguson

12 Taking information literacy Beyond Borders: A new library resource tracks policy changes in U.S. healthcare

14 A living library: New fund secures the legacy of a towering Tibetan scholar at the EAL

16 Memorable moments at the Fisher

18 Test your skills with the UTL Wordsearch

19 Cooking magic with flavour: A culinary tour through UTL's Eastern European cookbooks

21 Where stories meet: Giving Day inspires support for the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library

22 Finding joy in discovery: Why Norman Ball gives to the Fisher Library

ON THE SHELF: A closer look at *Noteworthy*'s cover

Top shelf, left to right: *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI* by Ethan Mollick, and a keepsake box with a cover detail from the 1481 Caxton *Cicero*, acquired by the Fisher Library with donor support in 2018

Third shelf, left to right: Larry P. Alford's 2024 Arts and Sciences Student's Union Urmila Sarkar Award for Outstanding Service to Students, "Old Well" replica from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, hard hat

Second shelf, left to right: A selection of Fisher exhibitions catalogues, Larry P. Alford's 2022 Ron MacDonald Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, a shadow box replica of a Peking Opera mask, a collection of library texts including *Evolution of the Heart: A History of the University of Toronto Library up to 1981* by Robert H. Blackburn (Chief Librarian of the University of Toronto Libraries 1954–1981)

First shelf, left to right: Larry P. Alford's calculator, a miniature card catalogue, some trusty No. 2 pencils, and an award recognizing Larry's service as Chair of the OCUL (Ontario Council of University Libraries) Board of Trustees

Cover photo by Hanna Borodina

NOTEWORTHY

News from the University of Toronto Libraries

University Chief Librarian
Larry P. Alford

Editor in Chief
Alison Lang

Creative Director and Design
Maureen Morin

Managing Editors
Mimosa Kabir Ketley
Larysa Woloszansky

University of Toronto Libraries Editorial Board

Julie Hannaford
Deputy Chief Librarian

Mimosa Kabir Ketley
Director of Advancement

Alison Lang
Communications Writer

Maureen Morin
Graphic Designer & Publications Specialist

Larysa Woloszansky
Director of Communications

Noteworthy (ISSN 2293-3964) is published twice yearly by the University of Toronto Libraries.

Comments should be addressed to:
Noteworthy
130 St. George Street
Toronto, ON M5S 1A5

The University of Toronto respects your privacy. We do not rent, trade or sell our mailing lists.

If you do not wish to receive *Noteworthy*, please contact us at 416-978-3600.

Background: Robarts Common photo by T. Guignard

A Message from the University Chief Librarian

It's with mixed emotions that I write my final message for *Noteworthy*.

As of July, I'll be stepping back from my role as University Chief Librarian. I've been very fortunate to work with exceptional colleagues and to engage with a generous and committed donor community.

The next period will be a change of pace for me. But libraries have a way of teaching you to adapt, to stay curious, and to keep learning, and I look forward to this new chapter.

You're about to read my reflections on the past 15 years at UTL, and my hopes for its future—so I won't repeat those here. Instead, I'll let the work of my colleagues, and the dedication of our donors speak for themselves through the pages of this issue. These stories highlight initiatives that make UTL strong, responsive, and resilient, and demonstrate our ability to rise to the occasion and support our community.

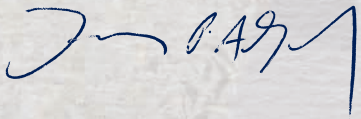
This includes the amazing work by UTL librarians to tackle disinformation through the *Beyond Borders* guide, which tracks dramatic policy changes and misinformation in U.S. healthcare and the resulting implications for Canada. There is also thoughtful work underway on AI literacy, helping students and faculty navigate a rapidly changing landscape.

This issue spotlights the impact of our donor community. We'll explore a donation to the Film Library and Media Archives from the late IMAX co-founder Graeme Ferguson—an extraordinary collection that will fuel Canadian film research for decades to come. We also look at an important recent donation to the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library (EAL) of Tibetan manuscripts from the library of the towering Tibetan scholar and monk-official Lobsang P. Lhalungpa. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the EAL has now established a new fund associated with this collection to unlock new pathways of Tibetan scholarship at U of T and beyond.

Throughout my years working in libraries, I have seen a great deal of change. But if there is one constant through it all, it has been the people: the users who fill our spaces with energy and ideas, the staff who build services and collections in support of the U of T community, and the donors whose generosity has helped shape our spaces, collections, programs, and countless other opportunities. Thanks to you, U of T's students, faculty and researchers are equipped to both succeed and thrive.

I will always believe in the people of UTL, and in the enduring power of libraries to cultivate ideas, to safeguard knowledge, and to move boldly and purposefully into the future.

It has been a privilege to be part of this community. Thank you for your support, for your belief in libraries, and for the trust you placed in me.



Larry P. Alford
University Chief Librarian
chieflibrarian@utoronto.ca

Stepping back and looking forward

A conversation with Larry P. Alford

As he concludes his tenure as University Chief Librarian, Larry P. Alford reflects on more than a decade of leadership at one of North America's leading research library systems.

Compiled by Mimosa Kabir Ketley and Alison Lang
With special thanks to Julie Hannaford and Laura Anderson

When you reflect on your time at U of T Libraries, what moments or accomplishments stand out most to you?

When I think about my career, here or elsewhere, I think about change over time, and about people.

Libraries are inherently collaborative. Staff work together to bring ideas to life, so I'm always a bit uncomfortable talking about "accomplishments." Whatever we've achieved over the past 15 years reflects the work of extraordinarily smart, creative, principled colleagues across three campuses. My role has been to help secure resources, clear the path, and occasionally say yes, or no, so they could do their work.

That said, I am proud of how we positioned the University of Toronto Libraries for the future while staying grounded in our responsibilities to the past. We built one of the most robust electronic collections infrastructures anywhere, with tens of millions of journal articles and over a million ebooks, approaching three petabytes of content. Access is part of it, but so is preparing for the next generation of research, including text and data mining and AI-driven discovery.

At the same time, we remain custodians of a globally significant collection. Every day I marvel at this. Through careful stewardship by our staff, UTL has become a site of constant connection and discovery. We continue to grow and preserve our special and print collections, 13 million volumes and 32,000 linear metres of archives, to support our community now and in the future.

I'm also proud of the national role we've played. Through Scholars Portal, research data management, digital preservation, and open access infrastructure, we've extended the reach of this institution to benefit research libraries across Ontario and Canada.

And then there are the spaces. Libraries are no longer just about housing books; they're about connecting learners and supporting knowledge creation. On a busy day, Robarts welcomes up to 15,000 students, and that fact alone makes it clear how much library space matters. We're continually reimagining our spaces as places where students can gather, collaborate, and do their best work.

The libraries have undergone significant transformation during your tenure. What changes are you most proud of?

Libraries are once more in the middle of major transformation. AI will be as disruptive as the rise of the internet in the 1990s. There is no avoiding that. What I'm proud of is that we engaged with this tidal wave of change – head on.

I've often said that if librarians aren't involved in shaping AI tools, it will happen *to* us, not with us. And if that happens, libraries risk being marginalized. We need to be active, principled participants in these conversations.

We've had this type of foresight before. Over more than a decade, we've invested in electronic collections, open access, and research data management, so when tri-agency mandates around open access publishing and preservation of research data were introduced, we were ready because we had built the infrastructure intentionally.

I'm also proud of our continued focus on improving the library experience for researchers, faculty and students. From the spacious and student-focused Robarts Common to the soon-to-be unveiled fifth floor renovation of the Map & Data Library, we're adapting our spaces to be human-focused, accessible, inviting and equipped with the technology students need to excel. And initiatives like the Downsview storage facility allow us to preserve Canada's rich print heritage sustainably while making room for evolving student needs.

We've also made meaningful progress in building a more inclusive culture. That work is ongoing and essential.

Initiatives like Borealis, Robarts Common, Downsview, and major open access agreements reshaped how we serve scholars and students. How did you approach leading change at that scale?

The University of Toronto Libraries is sometimes described, not always affectionately, as the 800-pound gorilla among Canadian research libraries. We are large and complex: 40 physical libraries across three campuses, national service infrastructure, and a complex labour environment. In my experience, it's more effective to lead by persuasion, rather than edicts.

We face tough decisions around collections, staffing, technology, and budgets. Those decisions need to be made as openly and ethically as possible. That builds trust, even when people disagree. Leadership means accepting that not everyone will agree with you and sometimes saying no in a way that is transparent and constructive.

How do you see the role of academic libraries evolving in the next decade?

We live in an era where access to information is more abundant than ever. It has become very easy to get answers right when we need them. It's also become equally critical to handle information responsibly.

AI can now generate a fake video instantly, and there are people who will use that capability for nefarious purposes. Universities and libraries are under pressure in part because we stand for facts and truth. We preserve the record of human history and achievement, the good and the bad, so that future generations can understand our time. This makes our role even more essential.

On one hand, we will enable extraordinary new forms of research. With the scale of digital content available at U of T, text-as-data research and AI-assisted discovery will open doors we can barely imagine.

On the other hand, we must continue to teach information skills. We must help students and researchers evaluate sources, distinguish evidence from opinion, and navigate misinformation and disinformation. That work is more important than ever.

Through all of it, we will continue to balance long-term preservation of our data and special collections with immediate digital access.

What advice would you offer to the next generation of library leaders?

Tell the truth, treat others with respect, listen to users, and learn to say no.

Those aren't complicated principles, but they're not always easy to practise.

Change should always be driven by people—by your users. And for change to be successful and long lasting, it needs to be grounded in institutional values, culture, and history.

And collaboration matters. I thought I understood collaboration from my years in the United States. But frankly, Canada does it better. The willingness to work across institutions for the common good has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career.

On a personal note, what has this chapter of your career meant to you?

Coming to the University of Toronto was an enormous honour. Serving as only the sixth (or perhaps fifth, depending on how you count) University Chief Librarian since 1892 carries a certain weight. I walk past the portraits of my predecessors and sometimes imagine they are saying, "Don't mess it up." I hope I have not.

My partner and I became Canadian citizens in 2019. That was a very moving experience for us. We have grown to love Canada deeply, and we are proud to call it home.

I've been lucky—I've looked forward to coming to work almost every day of my life. That is because of the people, colleagues, students, faculty, donors, and collaborators—across the country and internationally—that I have so enjoyed working with over the years.

If I hope for anything, it is simply that over nearly five decades in libraries, I have helped make them stronger and more sustainable and helped position this extraordinary institution to serve the next generation and the one after that.

That has been the privilege of a lifetime.

Photo by Paul Terefenko

Left to right: CARL President Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Librarian and Archivist of Canada Leslie Weir, University Chief Librarian Larry P. Alford, U of T President Melanie Woodin, Vice-President and Provost Trevor Young, and Vice-President and Principal at U of T Mississauga Alexandra Gillespie at a reception for Larry held on January 29, 2026.

Larry P. Alford at University of Toronto Libraries

2011

Larry is hired as University Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL).

2012

UTL unveils the newly renovated fourth-floor study and computer lab space at Robarts Library for the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation (CTSI).

Larry is elected as a Senior Fellow of Massey College of the University of Toronto.

2012/13

Larry works with the Provost and General Counsel to negotiate an agreement with Access Copyright on behalf of all faculty.

2013

Larry is first elected to the Board of Directors for the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). He was later elected Vice President, and then President-elect in October 2014 and served a number of other roles.

The Fisher Library acquires the personal correspondence of General James Wolfe,attracting national media attention.

2014

The Toronto Academic Libraries Internship Program (TALint) is established and places 15 iSchool students in library jobs across UTL in its inaugural year.

2015

Larry begins serving on the Canadian Leadership Council for Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI).

The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library (EAL) opens the Taiwan Resource Centre at UTL to support international exchange in Chinese studies. It's the first centre of its kind in Canada.

2016

Larry launches the University Chief Librarian's Innovation Awards, providing UTL staff the opportunity to test new ideas and foster a culture of innovation in the libraries.

The Architecture, Music, Law and Rotman libraries become part of the central library system.

15 years of leadership, innovation and service

2018

Larry is elected to the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Board of Directors.

Larry is the recipient of the Hugh Atkinson Memorial Award, American Library Association (ALA).

2020

UTL signs a landmark open access (OA) agreement with Karger Publishers.

2021

UTL signs OA agreements with SAGE Publishing, Elsevier, MIT Press and Public Library of Science (PLOS) Biology and Medicine through the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN).

The Fisher Library acquires *Recueil des histoires de Troyes*, printed by William Caxton, which is the oldest French-language printed book in a Canadian collection.

Larry is honoured with the CARL Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship.

2022

Major renovations at the Engineering and Computer Science Library and EAL are completed, with more space for study rooms, collaboration and events.

The Scholars Portal Dataverse is officially re-launched as Borealis, the Canadian Dataverse Repository.

Robarts Common officially opens its doors to the U of T community.

Larry is the recipient of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) Ron MacDonald Distinguished Service Award.

2023

CARL, the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL), and UTL sign an MOU to develop a National Institutional Repository Service to be hosted by Scholars Portal. This groundbreaking collaboration will create a national shared service to support the preservation of scholarly work across Canada.

2024

Larry receives the Arts and Sciences Students' Union Urmila Sarkar Award for Outstanding Service to Students.

2025

Larry is honoured with the Ontario Library Association's Ontario College and University Library Association (OCULA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

An approach both curious and critical

A closer look at UTL's AI Literacy Framework

As one of the academic birthplaces of modern AI, the University of Toronto is driving innovation, tools and research forward at a global level and shows no signs of slowing down. In response to this rapidly changing landscape, a tri-campus AI Task Force of librarians developed an AI Literacy Framework, a teaching tool to support students as they learn about different AI tools, how to use them and how to engage with them responsibly. The Task Force answered a few questions about this important new document for *Noteworthy.*

What was the primary goal of the task force?

We wanted to create an AI Literacy Framework that could be adapted by any librarian/library and demonstrate UTL's commitment to supporting students and faculty in their critical and ethical engagement with AI.

What is the level of AI expertise/usage amongst Task Force members?

We possess a solid foundational understanding of AI and its practical applications within our respective domains. While we may not be AI researchers or developers, we can identify realistic use cases, evaluate tools, and integrate AI solutions.

How did you begin developing the framework? Did faculty/student/staff input drive much of this process?

We started by reviewing other frameworks and AI-related content in the higher education context. Prior to the framework being formed, one of our group members did a workshop on AI Literacy for faculty in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching and Social Innovation in March 2025. This was helpful to see faculty's experiences and their own AI literacy. We also worked with the Library Student Advisory Committee, who provided targeted feedback on the framework.

Did you get a sense of how library users are using AI?

I think it's fair to say there is a wide range of experiences. For example, there are students who are opting out of using AI due to ethical reasons, and faculty have shared that they have had to accommodate this into how they work with AI tools. We've heard students say things like: "Why would I pay all this money for a degree if the AI does all the thinking for me"? As with anything, there are students, faculty, and staff who use AI tools critically and others less so.

As librarians, how do you accommodate for that range of user experience with AI?

We purposely wanted to design the framework so that it could be flexible and adaptable depending on one's teaching context. Different disciplines and years of study will have their own specific needs and for that reason, the framework is not prescriptive.

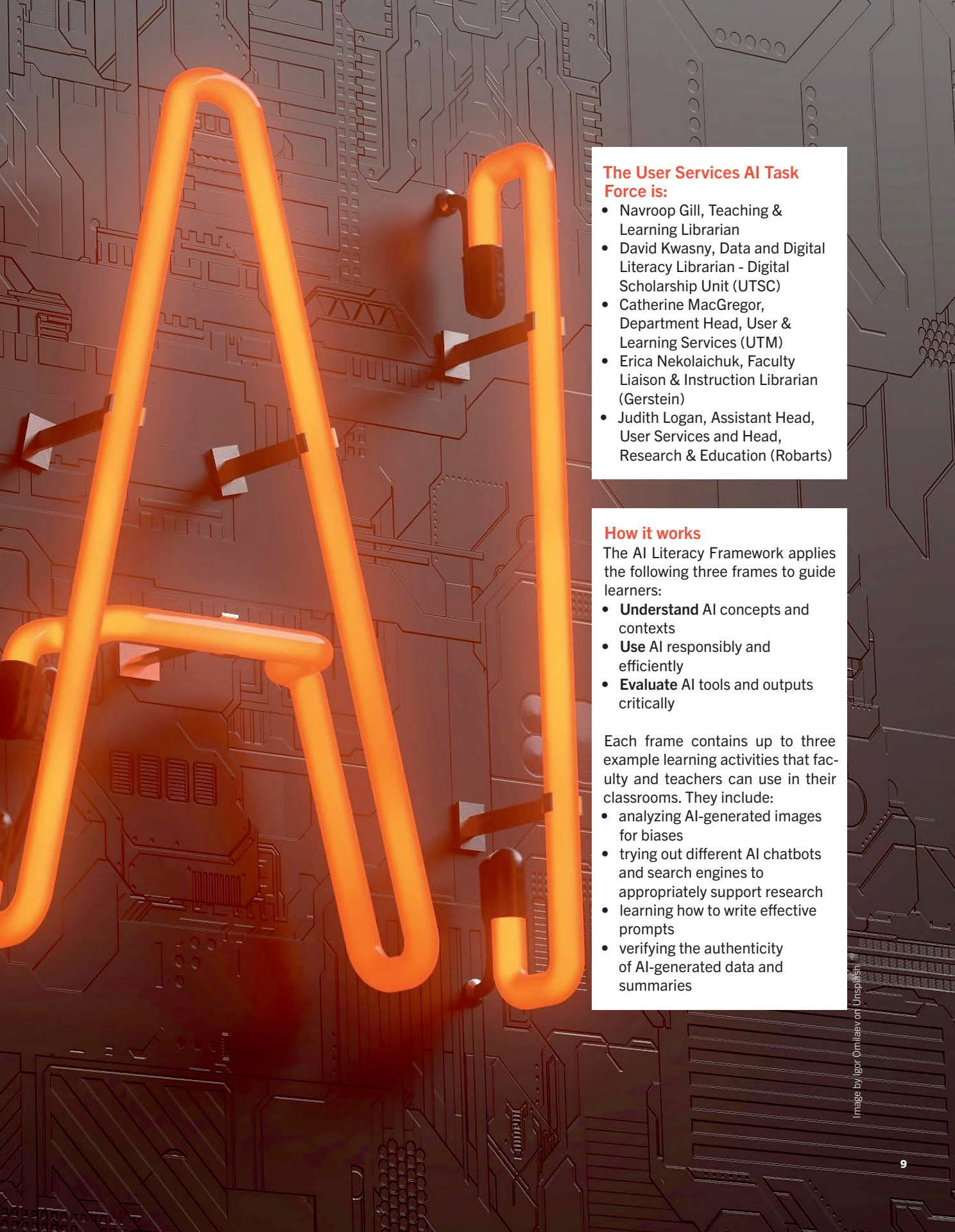
Do you think AI is something that should be adopted more widely in academia?

"Should" is a tricky word. We certainly think it could be adopted more widely in some parts of academia, but that will depend on the institution, department, and even course. Everyone is trying to figure out how to give students an education that includes critical thinking skills and we're seeing a variety of approaches to that.

What kinds of challenges do you hope this framework will address?

We hope anyone who uses this framework will feel more comfortable tackling the vast topic that is AI, and our colleagues can use the framework as a starting point for conversations with faculty and students. It's important for students, faculty, and library staff to feel like their specific viewpoints are welcome – we're not here to proselytize.

Q & A conducted by Alison Lang



The User Services AI Task Force is:

- Navroop Gill, Teaching & Learning Librarian
- David Kwasny, Data and Digital Literacy Librarian - Digital Scholarship Unit (UTSC)
- Catherine MacGregor, Department Head, User & Learning Services (UTM)
- Erica Nekolaichuk, Faculty Liaison & Instruction Librarian (Gerstein)
- Judith Logan, Assistant Head, User Services and Head, Research & Education (Robarts)

How it works

The AI Literacy Framework applies the following three frames to guide learners:

- **Understand** AI concepts and contexts
- **Use** AI responsibly and efficiently
- **Evaluate** AI tools and outputs critically

Each frame contains up to three example learning activities that faculty and teachers can use in their classrooms. They include:

- analyzing AI-generated images for biases
- trying out different AI chatbots and search engines to appropriately support research
- learning how to write effective prompts
- verifying the authenticity of AI-generated data and summaries

Image by Igor Omilaev on Unsplash

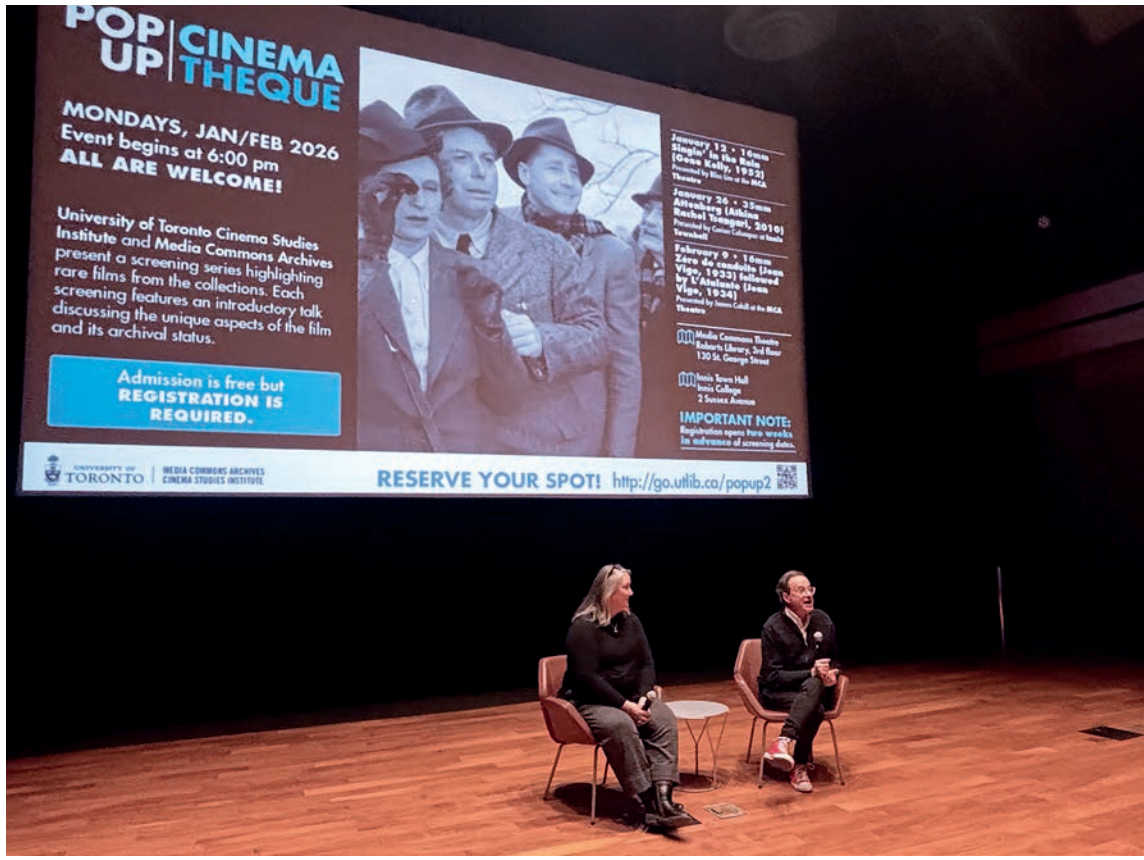

POP UP CINEMA THEQUE
MONDAYS, JAN/FEB 2026
Event begins at 6:00 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!
University of Toronto Cinema Studies Institute and Media Commons Archives present a screening series highlighting rare films from the collections. Each screening features an introductory talk discussing the unique aspects of the film and its archival status.
Admission is free but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
IMPORTANT NOTE:
RESERVE YOUR SPOT! http://go.utlib.ca/popup2

Photo by Alison Lang

Enriching film scholarship, one reel at a time

Landmark donation to UTL honours the legacy of IMAX co-founder Graeme Ferguson

If you're a movie lover, there are few experiences more immersive and thrilling than an IMAX screening. Once used for scientific and educational films at theatres like the now-shuttered Ontario Place Cinesphere, the format has expanded to over 1700 theatres around the world, with more blockbuster releases being shot with IMAX cameras.

What some may not know is that this revolutionary company has Canadian roots; it was co-founded by U of T alumnus and filmmaker Graeme Ferguson (BA 1952 VIC). Ferguson's legacy and the story of IMAX will now live on in the U of T Libraries' Film Library and Media Archives, where the late co-inventor's family donated a vast array of materials spanning his entire career. The Graeme Ferguson Fonds includes hundreds of films such as his early political satire *The Virgin President* on 35mm, film strips of the ground-breaking IMAX film *North of Superior*, production stills, movie posters, personal notes, and correspondence with NASA.

IMAX's early roots are humble – and tell the story of a company built on experimentation and invention. After seeing the potential of large format films at Expo '67, Ferguson joined forces with his brother-in-law and filmmaker Roman Kroitor and former high school classmates Bill Shaw and Robert Kerr.

Photo by Alison Lang

Their plan? Create a single projector capable of showing larger film formats on bigger screens. It required founding a company, getting a patent, building the projector, and setting up a large-screen theatre to show the films—along with convincing the right investors to get on board.

The IMAX team eventually found a home at the newly built provincial park Ontario Place, which included a permanent IMAX theatre called the Cinesphere. *North of Superior*—produced, directed, and edited by Ferguson—was the first IMAX film commissioned for the space, and began screening in 1971. It's a spectacular and breathtaking travelogue highlighting the natural beauty of a then-underexplored region of the province. It became a massive hit with audiences and a formative experience for generations of Canadian schoolchildren.

"For the first time, the audience felt immersed in the film. Wherever the camera was, the audience felt like they were 'in' it. And to this day that remains one of the dominant characteristics of IMAX—to be able to put the audience in the picture," Ferguson explained in a 1997 interview with *Take One* magazine.

U of T media archivists Christina Stewart and Rachel Beattie vividly recall seeing *North of Superior* during Ferguson's celebration of life in 2022 at the Cinesphere. "The moment when the film flies off a cliff into the mountains and trees over Lake Superior and it opens up into 70mm, with the crescendo of drumbeats—to me, that's akin to the moment in *The Wizard of Oz* when the film switches from black and white to Technicolor," Beattie says.

"It's incredibly groundbreaking, not only because it was shot here, but it was also developed in Toronto film labs, who had to adapt their machines to the bigger formats," says Stewart. "IMAX helped put Canada on the map as 'Hollywood North'—it showed the world that we can have our own film industry here. We can make this work."

Even with the rousing success of *North of Superior* and ensuring productions, including films shot by NASA astronauts documenting space travel, investors remained wary of the untested format. "We could not raise the capital to build a chain of IMAX theatres, so we were forced to spend 20 years building the theatres one by one until we had about 100. Only then did we have the critical mass to support the release of IMAX feature films," Ferguson told *U of T News* during an interview in 2013.

Fast forward to 2026—and the public's fascination with IMAX filmmaking has reached a fever pitch. There's growing interest in its founders, too, as evidenced by an enthusiastic turnout at a December 2025 screening of Ferguson's 1968 film *The Virgin President* on 35mm at Innis College. Through Ferguson's remarkable donation, his legacy and the story of IMAX will only enrich film scholarship at U of T for many years to come.

"I think my father really made the right choice," said Ferguson's son Munro. "As a U of T'er and as a Canadian, it's been really great and the reception has been so warm."

"As a donor, Graeme and his family organized his collection meticulously, and with intention—it's clear that they were thinking about our researchers, and how they wanted to benefit film scholars in perpetuity," says Stewart. "We can't wait for students and researchers to look deeper in this collection. There are so many different stories just waiting inside these records, to be brought out and given a voice."

By Alison Lang, with files from U of T Alumni

Facing page: Assistant media archivist Christina Stewart and Graeme Ferguson's son Munro answer questions following the screening of *The Virgin President*. Above: A cookie imprinted with the poster of Ferguson's 1968 film *The Virgin President* at an Innis Town Hall screening. Right: Graeme Ferguson prepares to film a space shuttle launch at the Kennedy Space Center in the 1980s (photo courtesy of Munro Ferguson).

Photo by Ivan S. via Pexels

Taking information literacy Beyond Borders

A new library resource tracks policy changes in U.S. healthcare

Since January 2025, the U.S. government has imposed a dizzying array of changes to science and healthcare agencies and policies, with potentially major repercussions for Canadian researchers, health care professionals, and their patients. Now, health librarians from U of T and across Canada are fighting against this tide of change and disinformation with a vital new resource.

Beyond Borders: Impacts of U.S. Administration decisions on Canadian Healthcare is designed to help Canadian researchers, healthcare professionals, and the public monitor and understand the cross-border impacts of U.S. policy decisions on science funding, research collaboration, and public health. It was created by volunteers from the Health Science Information Consortium, the University of Toronto Libraries and several health librarians from across Canada.

Organized into several categories, the guide has been shaped by U.S government policies that have led to mass firings of scientists, significant cuts to research funding, censorship of health data, and the country's withdrawal from international scientific collaborations. These actions have already begun to reverberate across Canada's research institutions and healthcare systems.

"The National Institute of Health and Center for Disease Control have always been valued sources of information," says Lori Anne Oja, executive director of the Health Science Information Consortium. "Their mandates are changing in a way that has created concerns globally. These changes affect research, data and most importantly public trust. As librarians with skills in research and critical appraisal, we felt it important to respond to these challenges and support our healthcare community by developing this guide."

Health Science Information Consortium / LibGuides / Beyond Borders
Beyond Borders: Impacts of U.S. Administration decisions on Canadian Healthcare / Home
Beyond Borders: Impacts of U.S. Administration decisions on Canadian Healthcare
Search this Guide
Search
Home
Appointments and Executive Orders
CDC and NIH
DEI Censorship
Weakening of Evidence to Practice Pipeline
Threats to Scholarly Publishing
Threats to MEDLINE, PubMed, and MedlinePlus
Clinical trial process changes
Misinformation
Trackers, Rescues and Responses
Acknowledgements and Disclaimer
Articles of Interest
There is no border for lies. 5 take-aways on false health information in Canada.
Canadian Medical Association, February 2026
Health minister says Canada can't rely on U.S. health institutions anymore
The Canadian Press Dec 26, 2025
No link between vaccines and autism, WHO reaffirms
CBC News Dec 2025
CDC adopts Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s anti-vaccine news on autism website
CBC News Nov 2025
Canada loses measles elimination status, causing entire region to lose designation.
Toronto Star, Nov 2025
UofT launches emergency research fund to support faculty hit by U.S. cuts
U of T News, Oct 2025
Trump links autism to acetaminophen use during pregnancy, despite decades of evidence it's safe
CNN, Sept 2025

The guide offers:

- **Tracking** of U.S. policy changes with Canadian relevance
- **Uncovering** censorship in research and its implications
- **Information for health practitioners** on how these changes may affect healthcare access and outcomes
- **Tools for researchers** to navigate threats to scholarly publishing, funding shifts and data preservation

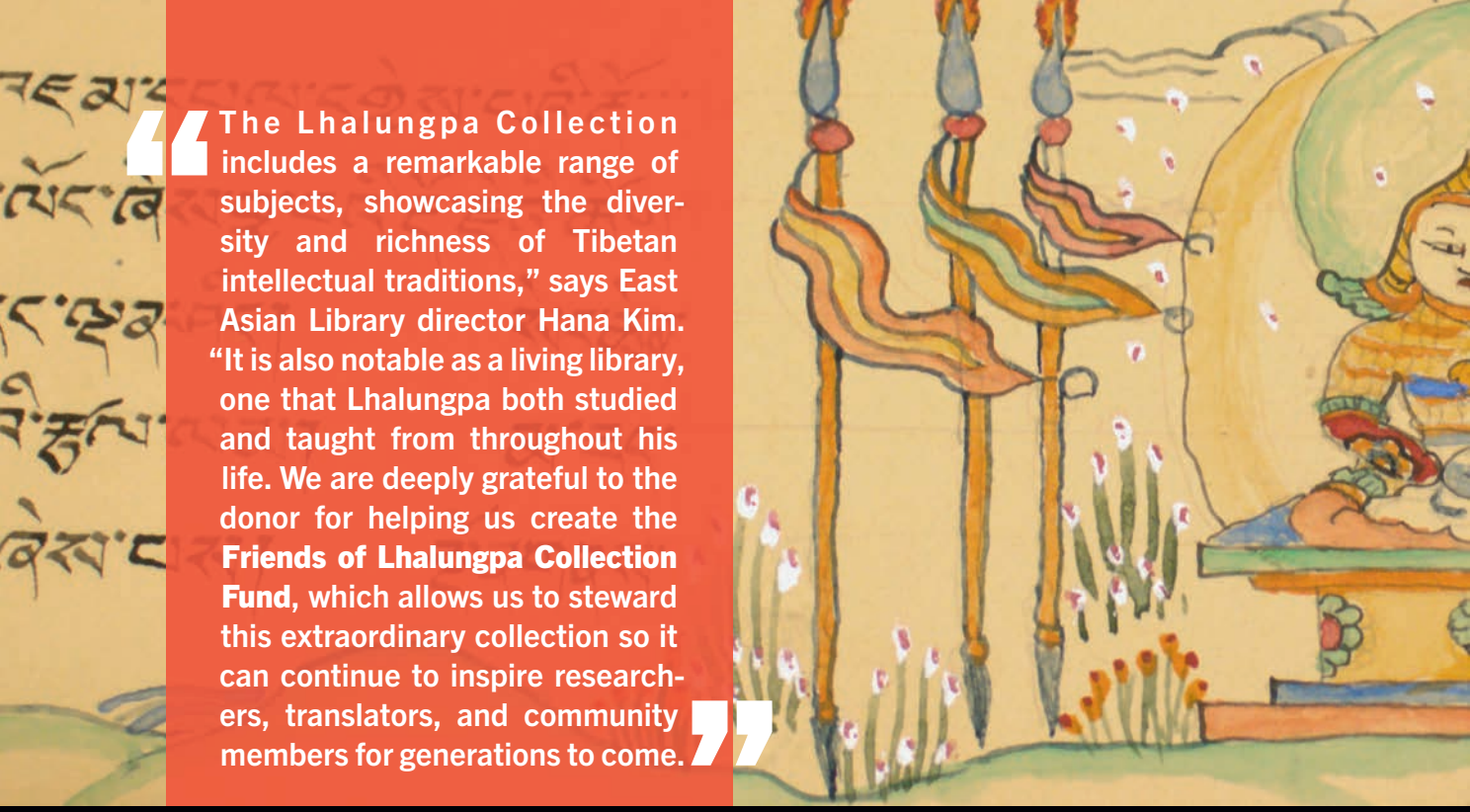
During periods of political uncertainty, where once-trusted sources of information are under threat, the role of libraries is more vital than ever. Through guides like *Beyond Borders*, librarians are responding to the increasing challenges to the quality of medical and scholarly information and helping researchers and clinicians navigate the landscape so they can continue their own work with integrity.

"Designed and maintained by librarians, the *Beyond Borders* guide is a valuable resource for healthcare clinicians, educators, researchers, and policymakers navigating the increasingly complex relationship between U.S. policy and Canadian healthcare," says Stephen Wellington, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia and a pediatrician at Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health. "By collecting the latest U.S. policy updates and analyzing their implications, the guide aims to cut through misinformation and highlight the areas with the greatest potential impact on Canada's healthcare system; ranging from the macroscopic level of population health to the health information used in individual patient care."

By Alison Lang

*Beyond Borders: Impacts of U.S. Administration decisions on Canadian Healthcar*e is online and available now at **https://uoft.me/beyondborders**.

For podcast listeners: Lori Anne Oja and Heather Gibson were interviewed for *I'm Pharmacy* podcast, produced by the Faculty of Pharmacy. They discussed the *Beyond Borders* guide and the impact of misinformation in healthcare. You can find the podcast on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



> The Lhalungpa Collection includes a remarkable range of subjects, showcasing the diversity and richness of Tibetan intellectual traditions," says East Asian Library director Hana Kim. "It is also notable as a living library, one that Lhalungpa both studied and taught from throughout his life. We are deeply grateful to the donor for helping us create the **Friends of Lhalungpa Collection Fund**, which allows us to steward this extraordinary collection so it can continue to inspire researchers, translators, and community members for generations to come."

A living library

New fund secures the legacy of a towering Tibetan scholar at the EAL

Many collectors of rare books and materials have deep and lifelong relationships with the objects in their libraries. The great Tibetan scholar, monk-official and teacher Lobsang P. Lhalungpa was no exception, taking his vast collection of traditional Tibetan texts and manuscripts around the world with him, from India to Vancouver to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he passed away in 2008.

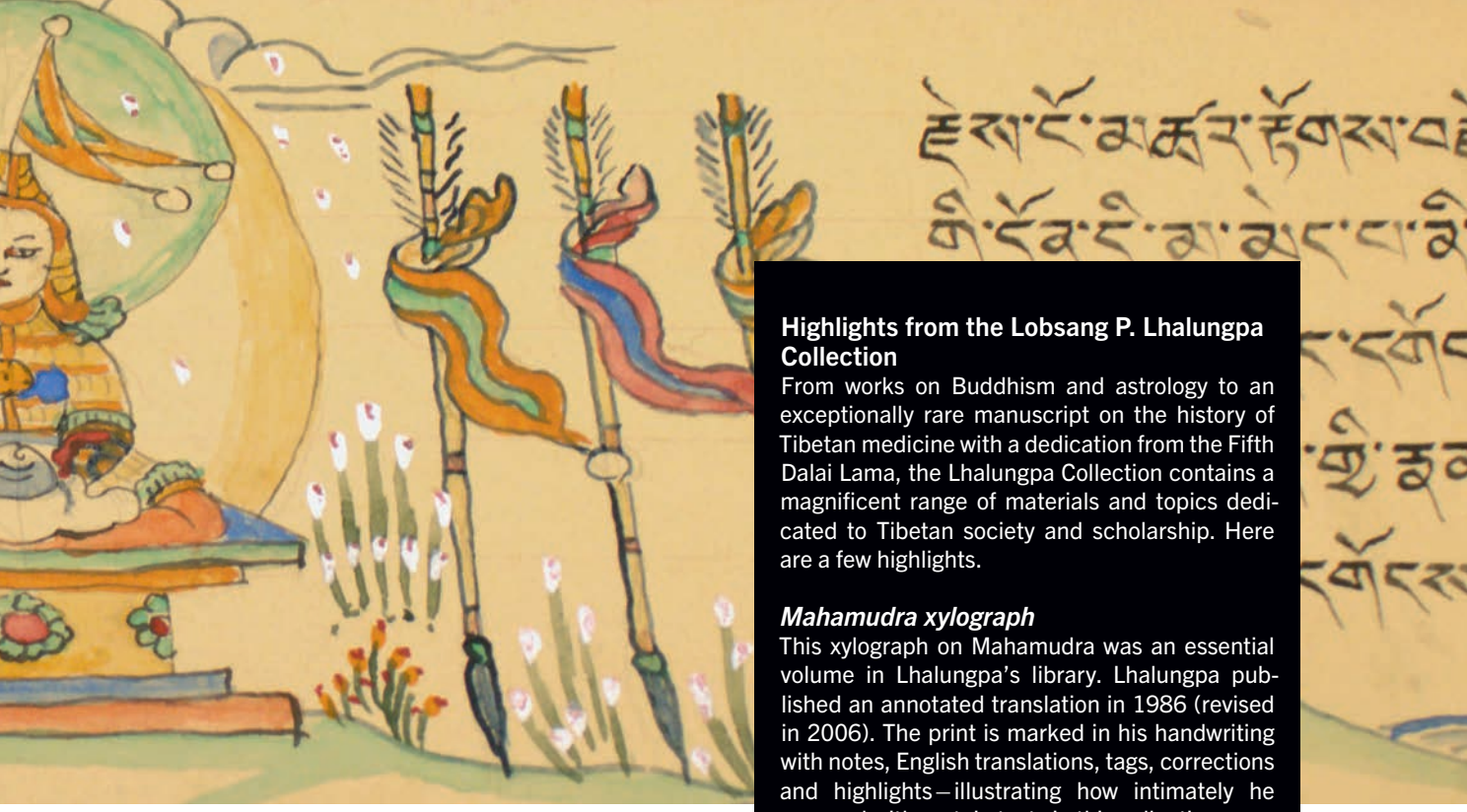
Thanks to a generous donation from the Lhalungpa family in 2024, this important collection has found its permanent home at the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library (EAL). A newly created fund will now ensure that the collection continues to support and inspire Tibetan scholarship at U of T and beyond.

The Friends of Lhalungpa Collection Fund has been established with an initial $143,000 (CAD) donation from an anonymous donor. It's the first collection-specific fund of this scale at the EAL and will support the care, preservation, and accessibility of the Lhalungpa Collection. For a collection containing over 1,100 Tibetan texts, this is no small undertaking – but its Friends will ensure that this important work can begin sooner rather than later.

This new fund marks a period of significant growth and collaboration for the EAL in Tibetan Studies, including a successful ongoing international partnership with Columbia University Libraries (CUL) since 2013. As part of this partnership, Kristina Dy-Liacco, the Tibetan Studies Librarian at CUL, also supports the Tibetan Studies collections at U of T Libraries, assisting with collection development, processing, and reference services. Looking ahead, a portion of Lhalungpa's remaining materials is anticipated to be shared with CUL as part of this collaboration.

In September 2025, donors, guests from the Tibetan Canadian community, and Lhalungpa's collaborators, friends and family attended a celebration of Lhalungpa's life and his countless contributions to Tibetan studies and history. Dr. Gray Tuttle, the Leila Hadley Luce Professor of Modern Tibetan Studies at Columbia University, delivered the keynote and discussed Lhalungpa's manuscripts as a vivid intellectual map of the scholar's life, tracing the movement of Tibetan knowledge across continents.

Deki N. Shukla, President of the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre and the Canadian Tibetan Associa-



tion of Ontario, echoed these reflections, noting that the collection's arrival in Toronto marks a profound moment for the community. She emphasized that preserving Lhalungpa's work at the East Asian Library strengthens cultural continuity for Tibetans in Canada and provides an important foundation for younger generations to connect with Tibetan language, history, and identity.

At the celebration, Lhalungpa's student and collaborator, Eleanor Caponigro, who provided critical support in transferring Lhalungpa's materials from Santa Fe, spoke about the depth of his work, his writings, and his enduring legacy.

"This collection is a rare treasure," Caponigro said. "His beloved texts, along with his notes, annotations, and careful corrections, reflect his deep commitment to the Buddhist Dharma and his lifelong dedication to Tibetan culture and scholarship. Every mark and every careful handling of a text shows how fully he lived his connection to the Dharma, and both were at the heart of who he was."

By Alison Lang with files from Hana Kim and EAL staff

Support the **Friends of the Lhalungpa Collection** to preserve rare materials, expand access, and advance research and learning.

https://uoft.me/friendslhalungpa

Highlights from the Lobsang P. Lhalungpa Collection

From works on Buddhism and astrology to an exceptionally rare manuscript on the history of Tibetan medicine with a dedication from the Fifth Dalai Lama, the Lhalungpa Collection contains a magnificent range of materials and topics dedicated to Tibetan society and scholarship. Here are a few highlights.

Mahamudra xylograph

This xylograph on Mahamudra was an essential volume in Lhalungpa's library. Lhalungpa published an annotated translation in 1986 (revised in 2006). The print is marked in his handwriting with notes, English translations, tags, corrections and highlights—illustrating how intimately he engaged with certain texts in this collection.

***Elegant Instruction of the Mirror of White Silver* (text on the history of Tibetan medicine)**

This rare manuscript includes a dedication composed by the Fifth Dalai Lama (1617–1682). According to the colophon, it was hand copied by his renowned personal assistant.

***The Life Story of Gesar Norbu, the Supreme Born from the Lingkar Horse Lineage, According to the Seven Oral Traditions* (pictured above)**

This rare handwritten/illustrated biography celebrates the life of Gesar of Ling, the legendary Tibetan king known for his heroism, wisdom and supernatural powers. This manuscript, combining unique images and text, was presented as a special gift to Lhalungpa.

The Expanded Biography and Hundred Thousand Songs of Milarepa

This traditional Tibetan pecha woodblock print documents the life and songs of Milarepa, one of Tibet's most revered yogis and poets. This copy served as a source for Lobsang P. Lhalungpa's English translation. The folio features an illustrated depiction of Milarepa, adding both devotional and visual dimensions to the text.

Photo by Alison Lang

Memorable moments at the Fisher

70 Rare Books, Special Collections, Archives

Since 1955, the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) has connected people with Canada's largest holdings of rare books. Running from October 16 to December 23, 2025, the accompanying exhibition looked back at the history of these holdings while showing the ways they continue to spark discovery, creativity, and learning. On the exhibition's opening night on October 16, 2025, Friends of the Fisher old and new and members of the U of T community browsed a selection of items recently used in teaching and research. The exhibition was organized by RBSC Head David Fernández, with contributions from RBSC staff.

Beyond the Page: The J. Edward Chamberlin Lecture

The J. Edward Chamberlin Lecture series seeks to engage audiences through sharing ideas, scholarship and traditions rooted in Indigenous stories. For the second annual lecture on October 30, 2025, professor and legal scholar Val Napolean presented a talk titled *A Lived Riot: Self-Definition, Citizenship, and Identity.* Napolean discussed the complex intersections between language, identity, blood quantum and citizenship, and how Indigenous people can move beyond the tangle of discourse to reclaim and redefine ideas of citizenship.

John Seltzer and Mark Seltzer Memorial Lecture: Reclaiming Black Memory, Forging Black Possibilities

As part of the John Seltzer and Mark Seltzer Memorial Lecture on November 27, 2025, a group of leading Black archivists and architects discussed the timely and essential questions: What does Black memory look like, sound like and feel like? How does Black memory inhabit and reshape space? *Reclaiming Black Memory, Forging Black Possibilities* brought together archivists Melissa J. Nelson and Aaron T. Francis in conversation with architects Shane Laptiste and Tura Cousins Wilson to reflect on the ways spaces can be reimagined to honour Black movement, healing and colonial liberation.

Arctic Fever: Image and Narrative in North Circumpolar Voyaging of the Long Nineteenth Century

Over the late winter and early spring of 2026, a fascinating new exhibition at the Fisher gathered documentation of Arctic exploration and the scramble for the region's abundant resources. Curators Mark A. Cheetham, University of Toronto, and Isabelle Gapp, University of Aberdeen assembled lithographs, books, maps and ephemera to tell the story of the Arctic in the 19th century—from local newspaper clippings documenting early American interest in Greenland to hand-drawn maps by Inuk artists that were used by British sailors. Arctic Fever ran from January 26–April 24, 2026.

Alexander C. Pathy Lecture on the Book Arts: Language is Material

The Fisher Library has a rich collection of chapbooks, defined as small, printed booklets usually containing poetry or prose. This literary tradition dates back to 16th-century Europe, but continues today as a low-cost and accessible way of disseminating art, with small presses like Jackpine, Gaspereau, Janus and others leading the way. It was a perfect topic of discussion for the 2026 Alexander C. Pathy Lecture on the Book Arts on February 26, 2026, where U of T assistant professor and author Claire Battershill presented a lively talk on creative writing, chapbooks and how she uses these publications in teaching.

All writeups by Alison Lang with files from UTL Advancement

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, paper engineering by Vojtěch Kubašta, London : Bancroft & Co.; [196-?] on display in 70 Rare Books, Special Collections, Archives: An Anniversary Exhibition 1955–2025.

Chamberlin lecturer Val Napolean addresses the crowd at the Fisher.

Melissa J. Nelson and Aaron T. Francis in conversation with Shane Laptiste and Tura Cousins Wilson at the Seltzer Lecture.

Items on display in the Arctic Fever exhibition.

Pathy lecturer Claire Battershill shares a chapbook example.

Photos by Paul Terefenko

Test your skills with the UTL Wordsearch

The libraries at the University of Toronto bring together materials, people and ideas in a variety of spaces suited for deep study and collaborative learning. Enjoy a mindful break inspired by the many diverse spaces and places at UTL.

M	Y	R	T	S	I	M	E	H	C	F	Q	J	Y
A	E	A	R	T	H	S	C	I	E	N	C	E	S
P	A	G	G	G	G	Y	H	M	O	R	H	V	Z
A	H	S	Y	U	O	E	W	P	I	M	G	P	E
N	O	Z	C	A	A	M	R	M	T	N	A	D	N
D	N	D	P	A	T	S	I	S	A	I	E	T	G
D	G	V	A	G	R	N	S	I	T	N	M	E	I
A	K	D	J	A	O	B	S	I	T	E	B	S	N
T	O	Z	V	L	U	A	O	I	S	I	I	B	E
A	N	F	O	W	T	R	S	R	L	S	A	N	E
Z	G	G	E	S	K	T	U	Z	O	O	I	A	R
H	Y	A	A	U	R	R	K	I	G	U	S	M	I
E	N	E	W	Y	H	T	B	B	N	N	G	Q	N
E	R	U	T	C	E	T	I	H	C	R	A	H	G

Find the library names

ARCHITECTURE
CHEMISTRY
CRIMINOLOGY
DENTISTRY
EARTHSCIENCES
EASTASIAN
ENGINEERING
GERSTEIN
HONGKONG
MAPANDDATA
MISSISSAUGA
SCARBOROUGH

Photo of Caven Library by T. Guignard

Cooking magic with flavour

A culinary tour through UTL's Eastern European cookbooks

In early 2026, visitors to the Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre explored a mouthwatering exhibit highlighting the University of Toronto Libraries' diverse collection of Eastern European cookbooks. Curated by GSLA student Alexander Zamer, the exhibit highlighted national, regional, historical, and émigré traditions and explored how food culture preserves memory, identity, and lived experience across borders and generations. Zamer culled most of his selections from the Gerstein Science Information Centre and the University of Toronto Scarborough. The display encouraged library visitors to explore a cultural history that is as rich and varied as the delicious recipes themselves.

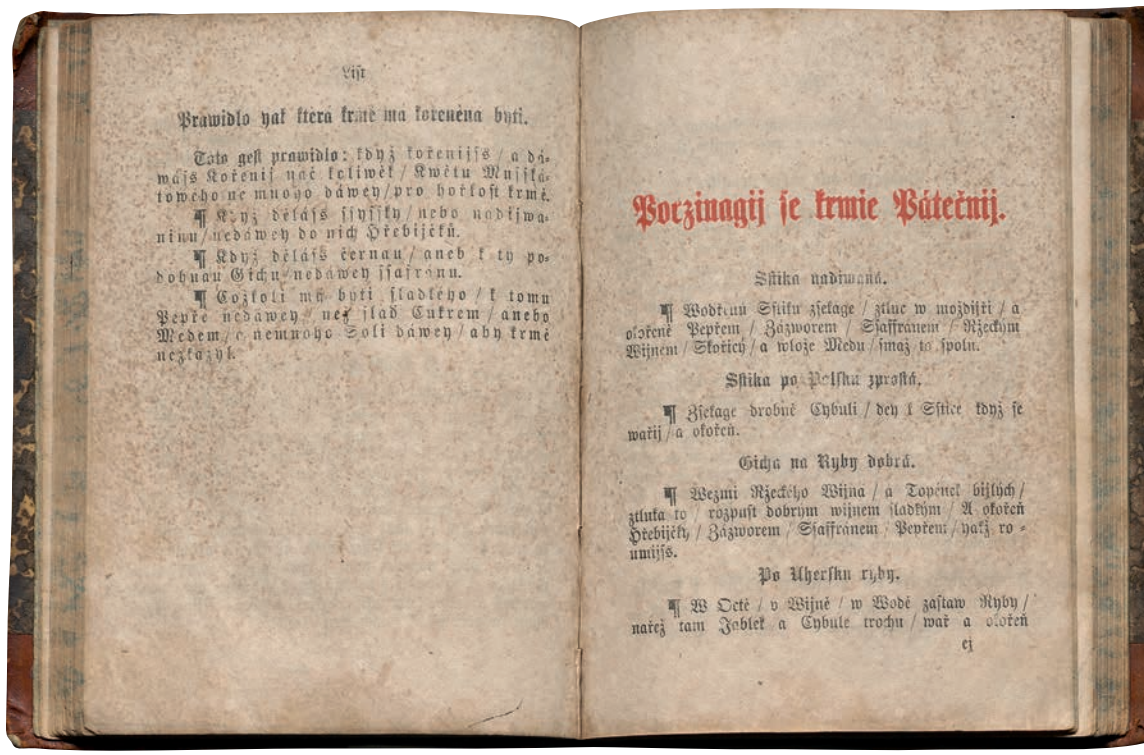
EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Violeta Autumn, *A Russian Jew Cooks in Peru.* New York: 101 Productions, 1973.
Violeta Autumn, born in Chiclayo, Peru, dedicated the cookbook to the memory of her mother who belonged to the wave of Russian Jews who immigrated to Peru in the 1920s, fleeing either persecution or political and economic instability brought by the Russian Revolution and the First World War. As the author writes: "The immigrant never loses [his] traditional ways, but [he] does assimilate the new and so manages to create something unique which lives as he lives and then it is gone. And that is what this book is all about."

***Kuchařstwij*, a Czech-language cookbook dated 1891. Author unknown.**
This tiny book's title is translated as: *Cookery: about various foods, which can be used to cook magic with flavour, such as game, birds, fish and many other foods, for every cook or farmer, this book is necessary and useful; and how vinegar is made, you will also find in the back.* This book was donated by Karel and Miroslava Cvachovec, who provide opportunities for U of T students to study in Central Europe through their Cvachovec Foundation Undergraduate Travel Scholarship.

***Jako pawa upiec*, 2018**
This is a Polish collection of recipes sourced from Renaissance Polish herbaria (meaning collections of plants and their uses). These recipes, some of which were considered medicinal at that time, are amusing in a modern context: "How to bake a peacock, so that it appears still alive when brought to the table."

By Alison Lang with files from Alexander Zamer



Prawidlo yak ſtera krmě ma koreněna byti.

Tato geſt prawidlo: kdyż koreniſſ / a dáwáſs Koreni nad koliwěk / Kwětu Muſkátowého ne mnoho dáwey / pro hořkoſt krmě.

¶ Kdyż děláſs ſjyſſku / nebo nadſiwaninu / nedáwey do nich Třebiček.

¶ Kdyż děláſs černau / aneb k ty podobnau Gichu / nedáwey ſſafranu.

¶ Cožkoli má býti ſladkého / k tomu Pepře nedáwey / než ſlad Cukrem / aneb Medem / a nemnoho Soli dáwey / aby krmě nezkyſlo.

Porzinagij ſe krmie Pátečnij.

Sſtika nadiwaná.

¶ Wodkem Sſtiku zſekage / zkuc w mozdiſti / a okořeně Pepřem / Zázworem / Sſaffranem / Rzeckým Wijnem / Skořicy / a wloże Medu / ſmaż to ſpolu.

Sſtika po Polſku zprostá.

¶ Zſekage drobně Cybuli / dey i Sſtice kdyż ſe waří / a okořeň.

Gicha na Ryby dobrá.

¶ Wezmi Rzeckého Wijna / a Topěnel bijlých / zkuſta to / rozpuſt dobrým wijnem ſladkým / A okořeň Třebičky / Zázworem / Sſaffranem / Pepřem / yakż rozumijſs.

Po Uherſku ryby.

¶ W Octě / w Wijně / w Wodě zaſtaw Ryby / nařež tam Jablek a Cybule trochu / wař a okořeň

ej

Recipes from Čeněk Zíbrt, *Kuchařstwij* (Prague : F. Šimáček, 1891)

Together we raised **$135,082.38** from 246 donors.

Photo by Jaclyn Shapiro

Where stories meet

Giving Day inspires support for the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library

This March, the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library became a gathering place for community, culture, and shared purpose.

Across two open houses and a full day of film at Innis Town Hall, guests came together to celebrate Hong Kong's stories and the people who carry them forward. The inaugural Reflections & Refractions charity screening, presented by ILLUME Films, invited audiences to experience heritage through many lenses, from endurance and artistry to family and identity. Each film created space for reflection and connection, echoing the library's role as both steward and storyteller.

That spirit of connection was made possible by an extraordinary community of supporters. Including a match from the University of Toronto, we raised a total of $135,082.38 from 246 donors for the RCL CHKL—a powerful expression of belief in the importance of preserving Hong Kong's history and its ties to Canada.

Their generosity ensures that this globally significant collection continues to grow and remain accessible to students, researchers, and the wider community. At a time when cultural histories can be at risk of being lost or overlooked, this support is essential to preserving voices and experiences that must not be forgotten. In doing so, donors are also strengthening a vital bridge between Hong Kong and the world, advancing research, dialogue, and cross-cultural understanding on a global scale.

By Mimosa Kabir Ketley

Dr. Maria Lau speaks to a packed house at the screening of *Four Trails*.

Supplied photo

Finding joy in discovery

Why Norman Ball gives to the Fisher Library

For nearly four decades, U of T alumnus Dr. Norman Ball (MA 1972, PhD 1979) has supported the University of Toronto Libraries as both a donor and a collector. Since 1986, he has given to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library through financial support and in-kind donations, shaped by a lifelong interest in collecting and discovery.

"All my life, I've been interested in collecting stuff," he says, recalling his childhood coin collection. That interest deepened during his graduate years at U of T in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At that time, the city was, in his words, "a kind of garden of earthly delights." Around Spadina and College, in used bookstores and junk shops, and at estate sales in Rosedale, there was an extraordinary variety of things to discover. It was before the internet, when you could still stumble on something unexpected and wonderful, often at a bargain price.

At the same time, he was immersed in his studies at U of T's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. Not all of Ball's learning took place in seminars. He fondly recalls serving as the second member of a two-person library committee. The other member was the esteemed Galileo scholar and book collector Professor Stillman Drake. Ball speaks almost reverently of the experience as he recalls reviewing antiquarian book catalogues and making selection decisions with Drake. It certainly shaped Ball's appreciation for books and how collections are built. "I had two educations," he says. "One at the university, and one out in the city."

For Ball, books and ephemera such as broadsides and pamphlets are about moments of recognition and surprise. "You look at something and think, 'I didn't know that!'" he says. Such experiences enrich our lives. Whether researching, collecting, or writing, Ball cherishes the "sense of joyous adventure that comes with new learning."

That sense of joy is what he hopes to share through his support of the Fisher, which he calls "a national treasure." Each donation is "an occasion," something that might offer a reader insight or excitement.

He is also clear about what it takes to run places like the Fisher. Libraries and archives preserve materials and make them available to students, researchers, and the public. A multitude of dedicated staff are tasked with keeping collections accessible today to ensure they will be there for future generations. This work takes considerable ongoing financial support.

His commitment to giving is rooted in both gratitude and experience. The University of Toronto, he says, has contributed a great deal to his life. He also credits this sense of generosity to his grandfather William Stevens, a Saskatchewan homesteader, who taught him early on that no matter where you are, someone can use a helping hand.

Supporting U of T Libraries is one way he puts these values into practice, while helping ensure others can share this same rare, cherished experience: "The joy of finding something you didn't know before."

By Mimosa Kabir Ketley

Start with curiosity. Discover through knowledge.

At U of T Libraries, students and researchers are turning questions into breakthroughs – using data, technology, and trusted knowledge to see the world differently.

Your support fuels the ideas, tools, and opportunities that make it happen.

Give today. Empower the next breakthrough.

Photo of 3D printer in Gerstein Library MADLab by Hanna Borodina

DONATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I would like to help students with a one-time gift to U of T Libraries of:

☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $150 ☐ $500 ☐ $1,827† ☐ $5,000
☐ Other amount $_____

† Commemorating the University's Royal Charter of 1827, all individuals with annual gifts of $1,827 or more receive special acknowledgment as welcomed members of the Presidents' Circle – a unique recognition society for those donors whose commitment reflects the vision and leadership of the University's past presidents. https://tinyurl.com/4w3je67k

Method of Payment:

☐ Cheque payable to University of Toronto is enclosed.
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Card Number Expiry Date

Name of Cardholder *(please print)* Signature

Full Name

Address

City Prov./State Postal/Zip Code

Telephone – Home

Email

Recognition:

☐ I would like to be recognized as:

☐ I do not wish to be publicly recognized.
☐ My company will match my donation.
☐ I'd like to learn more about estate planning.

Thank you for investing in the University of Toronto Libraries. Please send your donation to:

UTL Advancement Office
130 St. George St.
Toronto, ON M5S 1A5

Donations postmarked by December 31 will receive a 2026 tax receipt.

Donate Online!

All donations will be acknowledged with a charitable tax receipt.
Charitable Registration Number 10816 2330 RR001. LIB27AP1MLIBARALLAFF

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LIBRARIES

Turn curiosity into impact.

Support the breakthroughs happening every day at U of T Libraries.

Give today: **uoft.me/utldonate**

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARIES • 130 ST. GEORGE STREET • TORONTO, ON M5S 1A5

Photo by Matthew Volpe